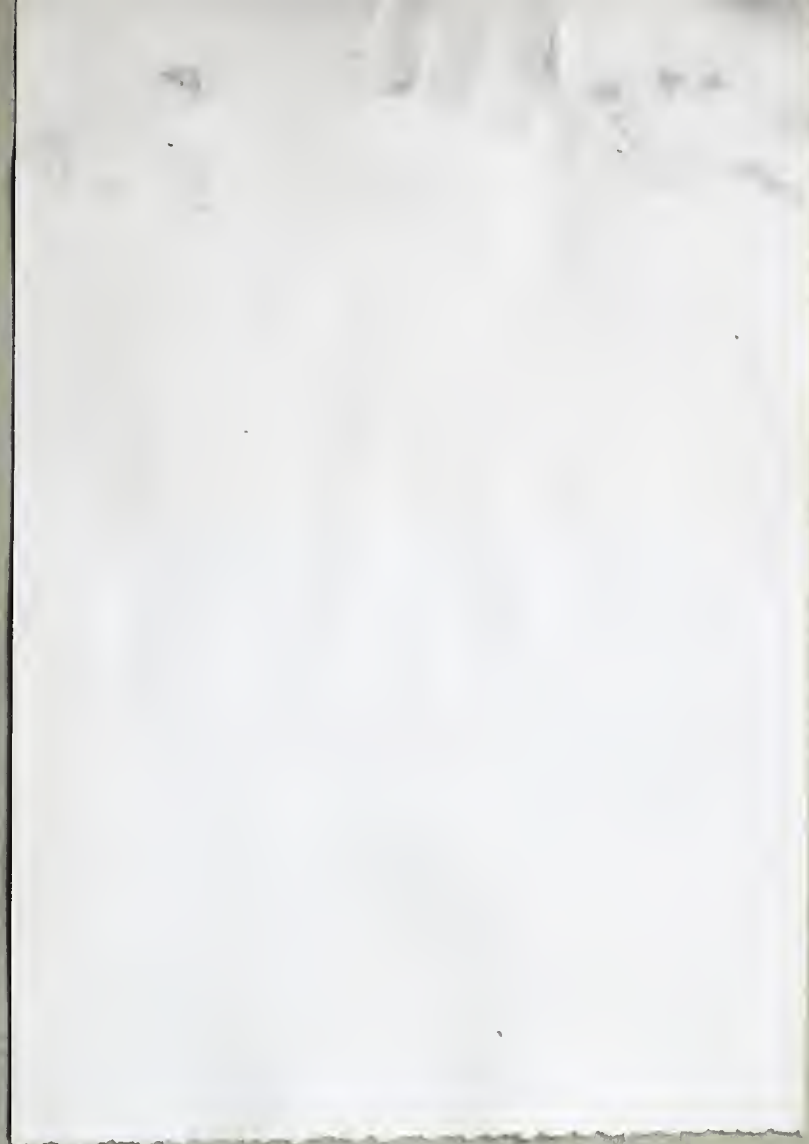


# REFERENCE



# COLLECTIONS






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From, *Since*

*Mauch Chunk P.*

Date, *Mar 23* 1893.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO.

**Carbon County Organized in 1843—It Was a Stirring Year in Mauch Chunk. Route of Travel Between Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre.**

The year of our Lord 1843, in which Carbon was formed into a separate county, was a stirring one to the citizens of Mauch Chunk. Next to the formation of the new county, the most important occurrence was the completion of the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad, which began on the Lehigh at White Haven and ended on the Susquehanna at Wilkes-Barre. The opening took place in May and the arrival of the first train in Wilkes-Barre was celebrated in that city by the booming of cannon. An immense crowd of people had gathered along the railroad tracks to see the first train of cars arrive.

After the completion of the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad the following was advertised as the best, cheapest and most expeditious route of travel between Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre:

"Leave Philadelphia daily at 7 a. m. by the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad to Port Clinton; from Port Clinton to Tamaqua, via Little Schuylkill Railroad; from Tamaqua to Mauch Chunk in a four horse Troy coach; pass the night in Mauch Chunk; leave Mauch Chunk the next morning for White Haven in a packet boat, on the upper section of the Lehigh Navigation, and from White Haven to Wilkes-Barre by railroad cars, arriving at that place at 4 p. m."

The fare from Philadelphia to Mauch Chunk was \$3.50 and from Mauch Chunk to Wilkes-Barre \$1.50, making a total of \$5.00 for the trip one way. The round trip cost \$10.00. There were several lines of packets plying between Mauch Chunk and White Haven and also several lines of coaches between Mauch Chunk and Pottsville. The competition between these reduced the fare to \$4.50 before the close of the first season.

The mail arrived in Mauch Chunk from Pottsville on a line of coaches ran by Alex. McClean.

There were three hotels in Mauch Chunk at this date and at the close of the summer of 1843 they were pronounced to have had the most profitable season in their history. The Mauch Chunk House, now the Mansion House, was conducted by Alex. Stedman, who was also the town's postmaster. The Golden Swan, now the American Hotel, was conducted by Cornelius Connor, and the Broadway House was conducted by Col. John Lentz.

Mr. Connor was also the owner of a line of packet boats on the canal, between Mauch Chunk and White Haven. This must have given him an advantage over his fellow landlords. Before the close of the season he was compelled to add another story to the Golden Swan.

The 50th anniversary of the organization of Carbon county, which occurs to-day, is likely to be allowed to pass by without any special observance. The larger portion of the older Mauch Chunkers who participated in the stirring events of 1843 have gone to that bourne from whence no traveler returneth. Only a few are yet with us. Those most readily called to mind are Thomas L. Foster, the president of the Second National Bank, and his brother, Captain Charles E., of East Mauch Chunk; George Ruddle, the Real Estate Agent of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company; Francis R. Sayre, of the same Company; Gen. Wm. Lilly, Major Robert Klotz, who was Carbon county's first Register and Recorder; Alex. Leisenring, the president of the First National Bank; N. D. Cortright, Sr., the well known coal shipper; LaFayette Lentz, the proprietor of the American Hotel and well known coal operator; Charles O. Skeer, one of the directors of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company; ex-Judge William H. Stroh, Dr. Charles M. Ebbert, the well known druggist; John Osborne, of West Broadway, and Nicholas Remmel, father of Postmaster Julius Remmel.



From, Express  
Easton Pa.

Date, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> 1893

#### Hotel Fire at Quakake.

The Quakake Hotel, near Beaver Meadows, was destroyed by fire Sunday night. Nothing could be saved and the inmates escaped in their night clothes. The hotel was owned by Patrick Garra. The loss on building and contents is \$3,500. There is a partial insurance.

The destroyed building was located on one of the first tavern sites in Carbon county, and has an interesting history. It was known as the Spring Mountain Hotel and was situated on the turnpike leading from Mauch Chunk to Berwick. Col. Jacob Hartz erected it first, somewhere along the year 1814. It was then a regular stopping place for the stages from the Wyoming region to Easton and Philadelphia. It was while he was the landlord of this hotel, in 1829, that Mr. Hartz was elected sheriff of Northampton county.

From, Democrat  
Mauch Chunk Pa.

Date, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 1894



Associate Judge, Daniel Rouse,  
of Weatherly.

Daniel Rouse was born in Monroe county, June 14 1823. He came to Weatherly in 1846 and connected himself with the old Beaver Meadow Rail-

road Company. This company was merged with the Lehigh Valley and in 1855, Mr. Rouse was appointed superintendent of the car shops. This position he has retained ever since, 38 years, almost a life-time, and will likely retain it until he dies. The company has not an official on its entire list who is held in higher esteem, both by the men and by his superiors.

Mr. Rouse is one of Weatherly's most valued citizens. There is not a public enterprise in that town that has not always received his hearty encouragement and aid. He was the town's first chief burgess, and has been school director almost continuously for 30 years or longer. From 1876 to 1879, he was County Commissioner, and his administration receives favorable comment even yet at this day.

His election to the honorable position of Associate Judge is very appropriate to the closing of a long and useful career.

He resides in a modest but comfortable home on the main business street of Weatherly. His family consists of a wife, two sons and one daughter.

From, Democrat  
Mauch Chunk Pa.

Date, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 1895

#### Mauch Chunk Journalism in 1829.

We are indebted to Mrs. S. L. Kellan, widow of the late S. L. Kellan, Esq., who resides at Camden, N. J., for the loan of a copy of "The Lehigh Pioneer and Mauch Chunk Courier," edited and published "by Amos Sisty, Mauch Chunk, Northampton County, Penna." The copy is of the 1st volume, dated August 20, 1829. It has four five column pages.

The first page is almost entirely devoted to advertising. Among the advertisers are Henry Mears, tailor, wanting three journeymen; Jesse K. Pryor's cabinet furniture establishment; John Mear wants journeymen tin plate works; Post Master Joseph White names the uncalled for letters in the post office; John Davis, Post Master at Lehigh; a similar advertisement; James W. Allison, the hatter; The Mauch Chunk Hotel by Edward W. Kimball; The Wyoming

Seminary by R. D. Chapman, principal; Michael German, clock and watch maker at Lehighton; Balliett & Helfrich, of Lehigh Forge and Furnace, having castings for sale; Jacob Hartz, of Lausanne announces himself a candidate for Sheriff, of Northampton county; John Fatzinger, proprietor of the Mauch Chunk Foundry; S. Dodson's new store; James Pryor, a Mahoning Valley farm for sale.

Mauch Chunk prices current Rye per bushel 60c.; corn 45; potatoes 45 to 50; eggs 8c. per dozen, bacon 7; hams 9 to 10; butter 10 to 12c.

"The Railroad is specially advertised by J. Lippencott, as "the proprietor of the carriages on the Mauch Chunk railway, having prepared a number of additional ones this season." He "confidently assures the public that they are perfectly safe and the passage free from danger, the carriages being regulated and placed completely under the control of the Guide (who passengers will invariably find to be careful and obliging) at whose pleasure they can be permitted to move faster or restrained to the slower motion which may be desired." He writes persons to make the trip to the coal quarry as a delightful one. Fare 75 cents for the first trip and 25 cents on each succeeding trip during the same visit.

Two columns of the second page are devoted to "Interesting news from Europe, by the packet ship Manchester which started from Liverpool on July 1st, arrived at New York on August 12th and news given at Mauch Chunk eight days later.

And two columns are devoted to the proceedings of a meeting of the Democratic Standing Committee held in Forks township. Resolutions strongly endorsing General Jackson and the nomination of George Wolf for Governor.

Two columns of the third page are devoted to general news items, and nearly all the remaining space to announcements—such as charges for carrying all kinds of produce on the Lehigh Canal, by Josiah White, Acting Manager; a coal mine in Columbia County for sale by A. L. Foster as agent for the proprietor; George W. Everett's Real Estate and Loan Agency at Baltimore. Also the arrivals and departures of stages at Mauch Chunk—running to and from Philadelphia, Allentown, Bethlehem and Berwick.

The fourth page, first column is entirely occupied by poetry; the second by a communication on the subject of rapid traveling, and the remainder of the page to different subjects, all selected, including one under the heading of "Trust in God."

The proprietor of the paper, though published by Sisty, was the late Asa L. Foster, and the successors of Sisty as editors were Jas. W. Chapman, John and W. P. I. Painter, J. H. Siewers, T. L. and C. E. Foster and Messrs. Taylor and Meacham, who changed its name to "The Gazette."

We received the loan of this newspaper relic upon the condition that we take good care of it and return it to Mrs. Kellam, who is and has been a subscriber to the Mauch Chunk Democrat from its start, succeeding the Courier, its beginning to the end. S. L. Kellam was one of the prominent citizens of Mauch Chunk for a number of years, and a Justice of the Peace, with his office at Broadway and Quarry, now Millers produce store. He was the Democratic nominee for Sheriff in 1858, when Amos Riegel the Republican candidate, as also the whole ticket of the same party was elected.

Of course the reader will readily understand that "The Mauch Chunk Railway" referred to is the down track by gravitation from "the quarry" (open mine) on Summit Hill to Mauch Chunk, and by the way, it is the oldest existing Railway on the American Continent, constructed by the Lehigh Company in 1826. The "Back Track" as it was formerly known, and the Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Jefferson Planes were constructed, if we are not mistaken about the year 1841.



From, *News*

*Mauch Chunk Pa.*

Date, *July 24, 1895*

## TO CELEBRATE ITS CENTENNIAL.

St. John's Reformed Congregation,  
Lower Towamensing—One Hundred  
Years Old—Believed to be the Oldest  
Congregation in the County—The  
Programme for the Occasion and a  
Brief Historical Sketch.

St. John's Reformed Congregation, in Lower Towamensing township, this county, will have reached its 100th anniversary on Thursday, August 8th, 1895. The event is to be celebrated by a re-union of all of the old members of the church and as many others as can possibly make it convenient to attend. Prominent speakers will be present and a basket pic-nic will be held at the church. The programme as far as arranged is as follows:

9:30 a. m., Address by Rev. E. V. Gearhart, D. D., of Franklin & Marshall College, on the Footprints of the Reformed Church; by Rev. T. O. Stein, of Easton, on Reminiscence of the old Pastors, and by Elder Daniel Miller, of Reading.

2 p. m., Address by ex-Pastors, Revs. Bartholomew, Freeman and Huber.

7:30 p. m., Sermon by Rev. Henry T. Spangler, D. D., President of Ursinus College.

The devotional exercises in connection with the above services will be conducted by Reformed clergymen in the county, all of whom are expected to be present.

The church is located about midway between Lehigh Gap and Millport and is easy of access from either the Lehigh Gap or the Bowmanstown stations of the Central Railroad of New Jersey. Teams will be at the stations for the accommodation of visitors and guests. Members of sister denominations have a cordial invitation to be present and participate in the felicities of the occasion.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Appended is a brief historical sketch of this congregation which is believed by many to be one of the oldest if not the oldest church congregation, of any denomination in the county.

On the 8th day of August, 1795, nineteen persons met in the house of the sainted Michael Stroh for the purpose of organizing a church congregation of the Reformed Church. They came from Trachsville, East Penn, Weissport, Mauch Chunk and Lower Towamensing. Rev. J. A. Helfrich, of blessed memory, conducted the devotional exercises. After the sermon, Michael Stroh was elected elder and Jacob Snyder deacon. These were at once installed, and the congregation was made a member of Zeigel's or the Heidelberg charge, under the jurisdiction of the Synod of the Reformed Church of the United States, which had only a short time before been separated from Holland.

In 1799, in connection with the newly organized Lutheran congregation, the first church edifice and school house were erected. In 1862, the church was demolished to give place for the present edifice and the school house was remodelled into a dwelling for the use of the organist.

Following is a list of pastors:

Rev. J. H. Helfrich, 1795 to 1811.

Rev. Jacob Becker, D. D. 1811 to 1825.

“ John Peter Decker, 1825 to 1832.

“ George Gearhart, 1832 to 1838.

“ Cyrus Becker, 1838 to 1848.

“ Erasmus Helfrich, 1848 to —

“ Alfred G. Dubbs, D. D., — —

“ John Guntenbein, D. D., — —

“ A. R. Bartholomew, 1863 to 1877.

“ J. E. Freeman, 1877 to 1887.

“ T. A. Huber, 1887 to 1892.

“ L. M. Kerschner, present pastor.

The present membership is about 400. The consistory is as follows: President, Rev. L. M. Kerschman; Elders, Peter Blose and Jerrimiah Kern; Deacons, Victor Brown, Wilson Fritzinger, Wilson Behler and Oscar Boyer; Trustees, Conrad Stroh and Oliver Blose.













